

FEB 01 2000

1... MS. STEPHANIE HLYWAK: [I want to first thank the DOE for holding this public hearing in Chicago.]

I'm sorry. My name is Stephanie Hlywak, H-l-y-w-a-k. I, myself, am a college student at Northwestern University and this is how I came upon the Yucca Mountain issue and the entire NEPA process of public hearings concerning EIS, environmental impact statements.

1 cont. [It's too bad that not more people realize that this is a public thing that can -- that people can participate in, and I want to thank you for allowing me to be part of this NEPA process. I have several things I just want to say very quickly, and forgive me for not being so eloquent. I didn't prepare anything.]

[First of all, I would like to also request, echoing the concerns of many people who have spoken before me, that the Q and A session be on the public record.]

2 Secondly, [I would like to speak just for a second about environmental justice. I think that this EIS is, as many people have noted, very difficult to understand, even if your native language is English. I think this needs to be published in Spanish and available in other languages for other citizens of this country who do not speak English or cannot understand English thoroughly.]

11 [I also think that the EIS needs to be rewritten or resummarized in a more digestible form. As someone who has read the EIS and has read the summary of the EIS, I can tell you that the summary is inadequate in representing the full EIS statement. The summary is just a glorified outline with brief descriptions. There needs to be a more digestible form that people, normal people can access.]

12 [And this also ties into the comments made earlier about education throughout the communities, especially communities that perhaps may be lower income, maybe worker communities near railroad tracks and public highways.]

3 Thirdly, [the EIS needs to analyze more alternatives. To me it is simply unacceptable to only analyze a no alternative action. On-site storage and current -- on-site storage at current sites and transmutation need to be considered as alternatives to this, and it is simply unacceptable to have a no action alternative rationally included in the EIS as if it's going to satisfy my concerns.]

4... Also, just in terms of things, [I understand that the EIS and the NEPA process is designed to protect the human environment and our role in that environment. Perhaps stepping away from that and speaking on behalf of the animals and the plants of the area, there needs to be more analysis of what will happen to the natural ecosystem, which is, unfortunately, near the Nevada test site. So I am sure it's not necessarily untainted, but there needs to be more attention paid to the effects of the actual land area around Yucca Mountain.]

In the summary EIS I just have a small passage, surface soil temperatures could increase by as much by 4.5 -- I'm sorry, 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit in dry soil at a depth of 3.3 feet, which could affect root growth and the growth of microbes or nutrient availability. Potential impacts from the

4 cont. repository on biological resources would consist of an increase of heat tolerant species and a decrease of less heat tolerant species.

In general, the effects -- areas affected by repository heating could experience a loss of shrub species and an increase in annual species. So there needs to be more attention paid to those nonhuman victims of this disaster waiting to happen.

5 Also, geologically, the site is clearly, clearly, clearly unsound. In the EIS, I would like -- in the final EIS I would like to see comments about the recent studies that have proved that the earth's crust near Yucca Mountain is stretching more rapidly than average, and that this could cause unease in the containment facility within the ground.

I would also like to know who can guarantee me that in the next 10,000 years, there's not going to be a gigantic earthquake, which could potentially set this stuff free and do who knows to the planet. Currently the site is on 33 known fault lines, which are active.

6 I would also just like to voice my support for the transportation routes to be published in the final EIS. It's absolutely necessary for those people to be making an informed -- public citizens, anyone alive today planning on being alive when the shipments begin, planning on having children, need to know, it's our public right to know, where these shipments will be passing through.

7 And just in conclusion, as a private citizen and a college student who was lucky enough to stumble upon something she felt like being active about and protesting, I just would like to say that I think the DOE is representing humans in a very bad light.

How arrogant do you think we could possibly be to think that we have the capabilities of constructing a man-made object that will out last our civilization and potentially be a burden for another civilization to bear?

How arrogant are we that we think that we are still going to be here in 10,000 years to make sure that this facility doesn't get messed up?

How arrogant are we to think that we have all the answers and we can say that without doubt there will be no problems with it?

8 I also fear that the money invested, the billions of dollars already poured into this project, will be too much incentive to pull out of the program at this point. I think instead the money should be, the money used for this project should be going to research on alternatives and education and outreach to the citizens of the United States, everyone.

I also think --

DR. LAWSON (Facilitator): 30 seconds, please.

MS. HLYWAK: 30 seconds? Okay. Thank you.

9 I also think that Nevada was targeted because it's a politically weak state, and I think that there
needs to be some sort of more power that Nevada can control their own destiny.

10 And I want to thank you on behalf of myself and my future progeny, my unborn children, please,
please, please don't do this.